POOR DOCUMENT

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN N. B., FEBRUARY 26, 1902.

ST. JOHN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAS HAD LIFE OF INTEREST.

Told Entertainingly and Furnishing a Valuable Collection of Facts.

First Pastor, Rev. Robert Irvine, Came from Ireland--Early Life Graphically Told.

Prosperity During His Pastorate -- Incorporation of the Church.



Rev. Robertilrvine, First Pastor,

Rev. Mr. Glen, minister of Portobello, Rev. Mr. Glen, minister of Portobello, Scotland. This was done on the recommendation of a committee consisting of Robert Rankine, Esq., Liverpool, Eng.; Hon. John Robertson, of St. John, and James Black, Esq., Glasgow, Scotland; Accepting the offer he came to the city and was duly ordained and inducted by the Presbytery of New Brunswick on September 7th, 1843. A large number of the members and adherents of the church hailed from the north of Ireland and they claimed that it had been understood that, in recognition of their nationality, the next minister was to be a native of the Emerald Isle. Feeling that faith had not been kept with them they seceded, and, purchasing from the Baptists the recently erected church on the corner of Great St. George and Carmarthen streets, prepared to "set up house" for themselves, as "The Frist Free Presbyterian Church of St. John." The movement had no connection with the agitation then going on my Scotland, but the name evident.

Sketch of First Pastor.

The Church Prospered.

The Church prospered greatly under Mr. Islabation the Sable the Sabbath and available and attainments of Mr. Elder and from a conjunct view of his appearance unanimously resolved to set him apart to the ministry? and his ordination took place as of from 120 to 130. But the growing west, for so Ontario must be called at that a sable at the sable at the sable at the Sabbath and which the sample view of the enterprising spirit at which Mr. Geo. Hutchinson's commission as representative elder was issued and there Scotland. This was done on the recom-Onurch of St. John." The movement had no connection with the agitation then going on in Scotland, but the name evidentity was suggested by the title assumed by the disruptionists there.

the time when the pews are to be sold, will be announced. The Rev. E. A. Crawley will preach the dedication sermon."

The newly formed congregation at once commissioned one of their leaders, Mr. William Parks, to proceed to Ireland and select a minister for them. Arrived at Belfast Mr. Parks conferred with the Belfast Mr. Parks conferred with the celebrated Dr. Cooke and several of the most promising young ministers of the time were invited to preach in the doctor's church in order that he might judge of their suitableness for St. John. The one which he finally decided to recommend was Rev. Robert Irvine, minister of the Third Church, Ballynahnich. When approached on the subject Mr. Irvine consented to follow the westward movement and enter upon his life's work in the new world with St. John as his starting point.

Rev. Robert Irvine.

On March 26, 1844, the following appeared in the Weekly Observer, copied from the Banner, of Ulster, Feb. 16:

"Rev. Robert Irvine—The Presbytery of Comber held a visitation in the Third Presbyterian church, Ballynahnich, on Tuesday, the 6th inst. Inter alia: A call was presented through the Presbytery to Mr. Irvine, from the First Free Church, St. John, New Brunswick, which he signified his intention of accepting, and begfied his intention of accepting, and beg-ged to surrender to the Presbytery the ged to surrender to the Presbytery the charge of his congregation. This, after due deliberation, the Presbytery felt it their duty to accept, and accordingly dissolved the masteral union between Mr. Irvine and his people. This did not take place without much regret on the part of the Presbytery in parting with a beloved brother, and especially on the part of the people, who, though acquiescing in the matter, as the will of the Church's Head, we could not suppress strong and audible his native land with a high character and goes to his new and extensive sphere of labor acompanied by the best wishes of his brethren and people of his late charge for his personal welfare and ministerial success. We understand that during a ministry of only three years, the number Montreal, where he continued five years.

Rev. Robert Irvine did not connect himwick until August 19th, 1846, when both he and his congregation were cordially received and enrolled. By what formalities he was inducted into the charge, I have not been able to discover, but probably he acted under his commission from the Irish church. On May 31st, 1845, a Kirk session was formed by the ordination to the eldership of Messrs. William Parks, George Hutchinson, Robert Richey and Robert Kedey, and the first entry in the isession records is under date of September 3rd in the same year. It is signed by William Parks as session clerk. There must have been previous meetings unrecorded at one of which Mr. Parks unrecorded at one of which Mr. Parks (Mr. Elder's trials for ordination were as There must have been previous meetings rie addressed the newly ordained minister. unrecorded at one of which Mr. Parks Mr. Elder's trials for ordination were as was elected to this office.

Rev. Robert Irvine was born at Broad Mills, about nine miles from Belfast, on Sept. 15th, 1814, and therefore exercised his ministry in St. John from his thirtieth

gregation, from Acts 10-29: 'Therefore came I unto you without gain, saying, as soon as I was sent for, I ask, therefore, for what intent you have sent for me." As Mr. Irvine has brought with him a high character for piety and talent, and zeal in the cause of Christ, much good may be expected from his ministrations, and it must be exteremly gratifying to the large body of Irish Presbyterian churches in the province not connected with there is now an opportunity afforded them of meeting together in a church connected with that to which they belonged in their native land.—Courier of Saturday."

The Minister Popular.

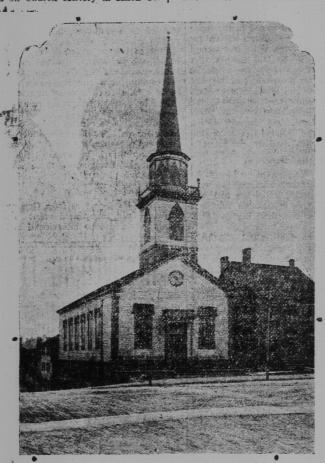
The Church Incorporated.

On April 14, 1847, St. John Presbyterian church was incorporated under the title which it still bears. This charter was subsequently amended in 1888 and forms the constitution of the congregation on its temporal side. The last clause of the act distinctly incorporates all other Presbyterian churches in the province not connected with the Provisions of the St. John church charter to them. Perhaps this clause was the ground of the opposition which the session and trustees displayed to the efforts of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, in 1852, to obtain a general act applicable to the churches cornected with it. Feeling seems to have made the provision of the congregation on its temporal side. The last clause of the act distinctly incorporated under the title which it still bears. This charter was subsequently amended in 1888 and forms the constitution of the congregation on its temporal side. The last clause of the act distinctly incorporates all other Presbyterian churches in the province not connected with the provisions of the Scotland and any others afterwards to be formed the art of the constitution of the congregation on its temporal side. The last clause of the act distinctly incorporated was subsequently amended in 1888 and forms the constitution of the congregation on its temporal side. The last clause of the act distinctly incorporates all other Presbyterian churches i The Minister Popular.

That Mr. Irvine was at once exceedingly popular is evident from the following notice of reopening the church after its enlargement to its present size: "The addition lately made to the Free Presby terian church in this city having been opened on Sabbath last (August 25th), the Rev. Robert Irvine preached to avery large audience from Zech. 6—12-13: "Behold the man whose name is the Branch, and he shall build the temple of the Lord; even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne, and he shall be a priest upon his throne, and he shall be a priest upon his throne, and he shall be a priest upon his throne, and he shall be a priest upon his throne, and he shall be a priest upon his throne, and he shall be a priest upon his throne, and he shall be a priest upon his throne, and he shall be a priest upon his throne, and he shall be a priest upon his throne, and he shall be a priest upon his throne, and he shall be a priest upon his throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." The collections on the occasion amounted to £45 3s. 9d."—Weekly Observer, Aug. 27, 1844.

Rev. Robert Irvine did not connect him—

self with the Presbytery of New Bruns-wick util August 19th, 1846, when both he and his result of the presbytery of New Bruns-lit was one who was to have a deep and follows: Critical exercise, Matt. 5, 43-48, and public sermon, Ind 6: "Presbytery ournalistic work, at first in co with the religious press, but later, under the undoubted leading of Providence, into



St. John Presbyterian Church.

matter, as the will of the Church's Head, yet could not suppress strong and audible expression of the sorrow felt in parting with an efficient and beloved minister, by whom their church, in a few years, was brought through many difficulties, to its present flourishing state. Mr. Irvine leaves his native land with a high character and beloved minister of St. John church, who was the intimate friend and playmate of his children, although not connected with his children, although not connected with his church. In July, 1856, he received the degree of D. D. from the University of church was draped in deepest black as if degree of D. D. from the University of New York and in 1864 accepted a call to Westminster church, Philadelphia. Here, such an array of the most prominent men

in the country of all creeds.

text 2 Sam. 1, 25: "How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle." The handsome pulpit of the church bears on the front the inscription. "In Memorian" its front the inscription. "In Memorian" its front the inscription: "In Memoriam"
The family was of Huguenot extraction for it was contributed to the church at and belonged to the "Old Light" Burgher

y induced Mr. Bennet to accept the call and Ecclisiastics is well worthy of the and begin life anew in this city. He was inducted on the historic date so dear to Irish Protestants, July 12th, 1854, thus bringing to a close a long and trying vacancy of two years and five days. Rev. Lawis Leals preached on the occasion from Lewis Jack preached on the occasion from Gal. 6-14, and Rev. Andrew Donald addressed the minister and people on their respective duties. It had been hoped that the new minister, seeing that his call had been hoped that the new minister, seeing that his call had been hoped that the new minister, seeing that his call had been hoped that the new minister, seeing that his call had been hoped that the new minister, seeing that his call had been hoped that the new minister, seeing that his call had been hoped that the new minister had been hoped that the new minister, seeing that his call had been hoped that the new minister had been hoped that the new minister, seeing that had been hoped that the new minister, seeing that had been hoped that the new minister, seeing that had been hoped that the new minister had been hoped that had been hoped that the new minister had been hoped that the new the new minister, seeing that his call had been chiefly promoted by those who felt deeply at Dr. Irivine's removal, would be able to unite all the discordant elements into harmonius co-operation and that the former flourishing state of affairs would be continued. But unfortunately it was not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so. The best of men are human not to be so.

The Cause of Rupture.

The immediate cause of an open rupture The immediate cause of an open rupture was an advertisement which appeared in "The New Brunswicker" over the signature of Mr. James A. Tufts, secretary of the board of trustces, reflecting upon the session and calling a meeting of the congregation on Tuesday evening, July 31st, 1855. A communication was also sent to Dr. Bennet requesting him to read the notice from the pulpit. The object of the meeting was stated to be "to consider a "Rev. T. F. Fotheringham.

The time has happily passed when congregations require to look across the Application of the pulpit of the pulp

might be convened. On the other hand the trustees are a purely civil corporation entirely extra-ecclesiastical and in no way answerable to any authority but that of the congregation which elects them. In calling a meeting, however, for such a purpose, they were going beyond the powers conferred upon them by their charter as trustees, they had no authority to call such a meeting. The schism was now too deep to be healed, and although the Presbytery decided against the trustees, deeming "the calling of a congregational meeting without consent of session as grossly erastian," they neverthe-less, and wisely, granted their petition to be formed into a new congregation and instructed the session of St. John church to grant certificates of disjunction to the

Calvin Church.

Thus on the 12th September, 1855, Presbytery organized what is now known as Calvin church and peace reigned within room for a new church and great good resulted in the end from the division. Before long the ranks were again filled up and the pews were occupied by other not less attentive hearers. Not long after the the manse was built and with the usual ups and downs of church life matters moved along until the time of the great fire, on June 20, 1877.

Perhaps no building in the city receiv-

ed more attention on that day than St. John Presbyterian church, situated at the southwest corner of a densely populated section of the city, there was great danger that should it become ignited the flames would sweep down with fast fury over Union, St. Patrick. Erin and Brusselve. sels streets as far as Haymarket Square. A very slight change of wind or even the heat might have produced this added calamity. The whole opposite side of King street was consumed and from St. John the writer was one, under Oliver Wendell Holmes, at Harvard, ever thought of him as an old man, although he had then passed his 80th birthday. His spirit church to the water's edge was swept of all buildings, but the church, was saved and with it the homes of thousands. But thought of him as one ourselves. His in some measure its misfortune. While other rather antiquated church edifices minutes without feeling brighter and bet Montreal, where he continued five years, the number of families under his care has more than doubled."

Montreal, where he continued five years, the number of families under his care has more than doubled."

In 1870 he was translated to the First Presbyterian church of Augusta, Georgia, and labored there until he died on April 181, 181, in the 67th year of his age. A beautiful manble statue erected on the church and this city in connection with the Irish General Assembly, was opened by the Rev. Robert Irvine, who has lately come out to take charge of it, and who preached a very eloquent and impressive sermon on the occasion to a crowded con
minutes without feeling brighter and better for it. The musical portion of the service consisted of the Sicilian vesper hymn played as the procession entered the church and the Died on April as the procession entered the church and the Dead March in Saul as the casket was removed; Psalm 130 (De profundis), the artiful manble statue erected on the church and the Dead March in Saul as the casket was removed; Psalm 130 (De profundis), the artiful manble statue erected on the church and the Dead March in Saul as the casket was removed; Psalm 130 (De profundis), the artiful manble statue erected on the church and the Dead March in Saul as the casket was removed; Psalm 130 (De profundis), the artiful manble statue erected on the church and the Dead March in Saul as the casket was removed; Psalm 130 (De profundis), the artiful manble statue erected on the church and less self-indulgent age. Gradurally, in spite of a most devoted and heroic were after the fire, replaced by handsome and expensive modern structures. St. John's retained the high galleries and straight backed, cushionless pews of an earlier and less self-indulgent age. Gradurally, in spite of a most devoted and heroic were after the fire, replaced by handsome and expensive modern structures. St. John's retained the high galleries and straight backed, cushionless pews of an earlier and less self-indulgent age. Gradural

for it was contributed to the church at the time of its renovation during the following winter, by friends of Dr. Elder and in memory of him.

Another Pastor from Across the Sea.

Again St. John church sent across the not to be so. The best of men are human at best, and prejudices once entertained are not easily overcome.

services, and in the absence of the party of the services of the services, and in the absence of the services of the servi just and discriminating estimate of the special characteristics of Dr. Bennet's genius.

ister of Norwood and Hastings, in the Presbytery of Peterborough, Ontario. His induction took place on Jan. 9, 1883. Rev. Robert Nairn preached from Ex. 14-8: "Speak unto the children of Israel that Robert Nairn preached from Ex. 14-8:
"Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward." Dr. Macrae narrated the steps which led to the call, the moderator, Rev. J. C. Burgess, put the questions of the formula and offered the induction prayer. Rev. A. T. Love addressed the minister, and Rev. H. H. Macpherson, a former fellow student and intimate friend of Mr. Fotheringham, addressed the people at his request. Feeling

Another Pastor from Across the Sea.

Again St. John church sent across the Atlantic for a pastor and this time the choice fell on Rev. James Bennet, minister of Tassgah. County Armagh. Mr. Bennet was an intimate friend in boyhood of the first pastor of St. John church, his room-mate while studying at Glasgow and Edinburgh, and was licensed at the same time as he, in 1841, by the Burgher Presbytery at Shotts. It was Dr. Ivine's urgent persuasions that ultimately induced Mr. Bennet to accept the call

the necessity of remodelling the church so as to conform to modern taste, the William Elder's Work in the congregation resolved to do it thoroughly. In conference with Mr. Dumaresque, architect, it was decided to attempt some thing original, but more in keeping with the shape of the auditorium than the conventional Gothic style. The old galleries and pews were removed and the shape of the windows made rectangular. Instead Re-opening After Improvements. At the re-opening services on March 22, erica. The present officer-bearers of the 1884, Dr. R. F. Burns, of Halifax, preach

ed both morning and evening and lectured on "Egypt" on the Monday following. The collection on Sunday amounted to \$155. On Tuesday evening a social meeting of a most enjoyable character was held at which congratulatory addresses were given by several ministers of various The church celebrated its jubilee as

resbyterian place of worship on Sunday, May 13, 1894, when Dr. Bennet again oc-cupied his old pulpit and made interest-ing reference to the past 50 years, the greater portion of which was embraced in his incumbancy. On the following evenng a public meeting was held at which several of the members and former members of the church spoke of old times and Mr. James A. Tufts handed the paster a volume entrusted to his care by Rev. Dr. Irvine containing all the marriage licenses received by him, and thus a complete and authentic marriage register for the period of his pastorate.

The church is thoroughly organized. Seats are free and all the money for cur-

Church, Press, and Legislature.

Rev. James Bennet's Long Pastorate -- What Led to Formation of Calvin Church.

Sketch of Rev. T. F. Fotheringham -- Church Improvements--Present Organization.

St. John Company of the Boys' Brigade, which is in connection with this church, was organized on May 3rd, 1889, by the pastor, who is a veteran of 1866. It was the first company of the B. B. in Am-



Rev. Dr. T. F. Fotheringham, Present Pastor

ROBBER BAND IN COLCHESTER COUNTY.

Series of Thefts -- People Think There's an Organized Body.

Truro, N. S., Feb. 21.-(Special)-A series of burglaries, started recently in small places in North Colchester and adjoining portions of Cumberland. Last night a gang broke into Gordon Crowe's farm, Belmont, carried off in a large wagon a quantity of grain valued at \$25, and some harness. Recently they made several hauls near Wentworth, but no definit due was recovered. The Building Purchased.

The building which was then purchased, and which is now known as "The Saint John Presbyterian church', was first used as a place of worship on Friday, July 10, 1814, and therefore exercised this ministry in St. John from his thirtient to the thirty-eighth year. He was prepared legs. On the election of Rev. George Part and which is now known as "The Saint John Presbyterian church', was first used as a place of worship on Friday, July 10, 1814, and therefore exercised and which is now known as "The Saint John Presbyterian church', was first used as a place of worship on Friday, July 10, 1814, and therefore exercised this ministry in St. John from his thirtient to the bring and denied the right of the board of truspending of the Burgher church, his mother's gow and Edinburgh during the period of the late Mr. J. W. Lawrence:

"General Invitation—Pews Free—On Friday next, the 10th inst., at 3 o'clock p.m. the Second Baptist chapel, situated opposite the southeast corner of the old burying ground, will be dedicated to the worship of Almighty God. There will be a number of Baptist ministers present on the worship of Almighty God. There will be a number of Baptist ministers present on the occasion. At the close of the service, the time when the pews are to be sold, will be announced. The Rev. E. A. Common of the control of the Caurch of Section 182 and the pression of the control of the Caurch of Section 182 and the pression of the control of the Caurch of Section 182 and the pression of the chair, and all gatherings of the control of the Caurch of the late Mr. J. W. Lawrence:

"General Invitation—Pews Free—On Frieday and the pression of the Caurch of the board of truspending portions of the many interested to the church, the city and the province of the late Mr. J. W. Lawrence:

"General Invitation—Pews Free—On Frieday and the pression of the Celurch, Target and the pression of the Celurch of the board of truspending the pression of t

A FLOOD OF LIGHT equal to 100 candle lights and com-parable only to the light of noon day-sun, yet soft and restful to sew or read by, such is the light of the **AUER GAS LAMP** It makes and burns its own

gas—is cheaperthan oil and as easy to manage—though eighttimes as bright. Gives out very little heat. Our free catalogue gives full particu-lars. Write for it. AUER LIGHT CO., MAKERS, MONTREAL

ALWAYS YOUNG AS YOU FEEL.

People Who Are Young in Spirit Neve Seem to Grow Old.

and the pews were occupied by other not less attentive hearers. Not long after this unable to perform their worked duties. As surely as they think this it will come true, for thought is creative. How many of us can say, with Job, "The thing which I greatly feared is come upon me."

The time will come when children will

not be allowed to celebrate their birth days; when they will know that, by think ing themselves young, they will remain young, and that they will cease to grow old when they cease to believe in old age. The body is built up of beliefs, and our convictions are stamped upon every fibre of our beings. What we believe, what we think that we are; so people who rewe think, that we are: so people who re main young in spirit never grow old.

Not one of a hundred students, was so young, and he was so buoyant, so

"WILL CHEAT THE GALLOWS," WOULD KILL CHILD

CONDEMNED MURDERER AT OTTAWA WILL EAT NOTHING.

Stanislaus Lacroix Refused All Food Since Learning That Governor-in-Council Wil.

him, yesterday afternoon, the letter containing the information that the governorin-council had decided not to interfere in the case. Lacroix, who had anticipated shopping, leaving the little girl in charge the contents of the letter by the action of the servant. When she returned she the contents of the letter by the action of his guards in strengthening his cell, heard it in sullen silence. Rev. Father A gas bracket had been wrenched from Bellemaire was present at the time and the wall and the room and hallway were endeavored to cheer the doomed man, but filled with gas. The child will recover, "After 1 see my son it will be short work," he exclaimed in a sudden fit of

anger.

His ten-year-old son, his only child, is now living with his uncle, in Montreal.

NO DANGER.

There is no danger of heart burn or heart troubles from the use of Chewing Tobacco, if it has been properly manufactured. Great care is taken by the manufacture of "OLD FOX" and "BOBS" Chewing Tobacco, to use only pure and wholesome ingredients, which will leave no bad after effects. If you are not already using these brands, try them. Even the tags are valuable. Save them; and ask your dealer for our new illustrated premium catalogue.

Cabinet Minister Turned Down. Rome, Feb. 21.—Signor Villa, the cabinet's candidate for presidency of the chamber of deputies, was defeated today. The incident has caused intense excite-

Emil Helub, African Explorer. Vienna, Feb. 21—The death is announced of Emil Helub, the African explorer.

THAT SHE LOVED.

Insane Fondness of Servant for Little One Leads to Shooting.

New York, Feb. 21.-A peculiar tragedy Not Interfere in His Behalf—Will Make
Short Work of His Life.

Ottawa, Feb. 21—(Special)—Stanislaus
Lacroix boasts that he will never live to mount the scaffold on March 21. He has eaten nothing since Sheriff White read to him, yesterday afternoon, the letter conwhom she feared being separated from

her, through dismissal.

Mrs. Simons, mother of the child, went found the servant stretched out on the floor with the little girl lying by her side. the latter only muttered his desire to the girl may die. Mr. Simons is a wealthy cheat the gallows.

> "VIGILANT" NEST SLIDING — ADJUSTABLE (Patented Can. & U.S.)

LIVED 41 YEARS ALONE.

Death of the Oldest Lighthouse Keeper in the World.

Ipswich, Mass., Feb. 21-Captain Benj. Ellsworth, the oldest lighthouse keeper in the world, died today aged 89 years. For 41 years he tended alone the lighthouse at Ipswich Beach, but for the past three years he had been assisted by his daugh-

The Shah of Persia has the finest collection of cats in the world.

